

**REMARKS**

Claims 22-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-21 have been canceled. Claims 22-31 have been presented herewith.

Also by this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been revised to identify the parent applications.

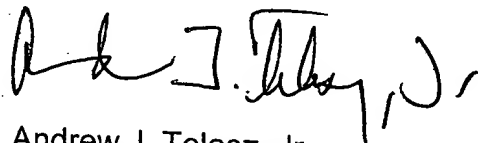
Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.  
Reg. No. 33,581

12200 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 150  
Reston, VA 20191  
Tel. No. (703) 715-0870  
Fax No. (703) 715-0877